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GROW FORAGE CORN, RICE, COTTON IN POLAND

CORN CULTIVATION TO INCREASE -- Warsaw, Przegląd Rolniczy, Vol V, No 11, Nov 50

Forty years ago it was claimed that corn cultivated for grain could ripen and give a high yield only in zones of vine cultivation. In prewar Poland the cultivation of flint corn was widespread only in the southeast, in an area of 84,000 hectares. In the rest of the country only 6,000 hectares of cultivated land were devoted to corn. Forage corn was cultivated only for greens and for silage, and each year seeds were imported from southern Europe, Africa, and America.

Forage corn did not ripen in Poland because it bloomed late. The first autumn frosts found it still in the field, its grain at the milky stage. It was supposed that, because of insufficient warmth, forage corn could not ripen in Poland. New research in the field of acclimatization, conducted by Professor Olbrycht and Engineer Nadwyczawski, has shown the fallacy of the old opinions.

For the past few years, such varieties of forage corn as Vigor and Red Coral have been raised successfully on the State Farms. Their blooming period occurs at the end of June and in the first half of July, allowing 50-60 days for ripening.

The scientific research of Professors Gorski, Romer, Gorchynski, and others has shown that the Polish climate is particularly well suited to corn cultivation. Corn requires 70 millimeters of rainfall monthly during June, July, and August, and it is precisely during those months that Poland has the most rain. September and the first half of October are especially propitious for the ripening and final drying of the corn.

Soil conditions in Poland also favor corn cultivation. Cultivation is most successful in loess, black soil, diluvial soil, light clays, and soil rich in humus and minerals such as that used for potato and rye cultivation. In Pomorze Mazurskie corn is cultivated on light sandy soil. There, where oats yielded 10-20 quintals per hectare, the yield of corn amounted to 20-24 quintals of grain per hectare.

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Corn breeders are faced with the serious task of improving already existing varieties, and of supplying new ones adapted to the climatic and soil regions of Poland.

There are still difficulties of inadequate facilities for the storage and drying of corn gathered for grain. Poland lacks machinery and agricultural implements for the mechanization of cultivation, harvesting, and threshing. Polish farmers are not familiar with the principles of cultivating this useful plant. However, they can be retrained and, since the Six-Year Plan provides for a significant increase in corn cultivation, the necessary funds will be provided to build silos and dryers and to buy the essential machines and implements. -- Jan de Jirion

NON-EUROPEAN PLANTS ACCLIMATIZED -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 16 Dec 50

The State Agricultural Institute at Pulawy has succeeded in adapting rice to climatic and soil conditions in Poland. During a 3-year experimental cycle a yield of 24-30 centners per hectare has been achieved. In 1951 the experiments will be extended to ponds and combined with fish hatching, to utilize the area to the fullest extent. Deep ditches are to protect the fish during periods of sowing and harvesting.

Chinese sugar cane (sorghum) is being raised on an area of 120 hectares. The cane is to be used for the production of brushes and the seed as feed for pigs and poultry.

The castor-oil plant, too, has been adapted to Poland's climatic conditions. In 1951, 200 hectares of land near Lublin will be sown to this crop.

The Six-Year Plan also provides for the cultivation of kok-sagyz, the sap of which will be used in the manufacture of rubber.

ACCLIMATIZE COTTON -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 24 Feb 51

The State Agricultural Institute has succeeded in adapting cotton to grow in Poland. Soviet cottonseed has now produced a crop for the first time. The acclimatization experiments are based on the experience of Soviet agrobiologists.

ACTIVATE POLAND'S LARGEST SEED-CLEANING PLANT -- Warsaw, Przegląd Rolniczy, Vol V, No 12, Dec 50

A new plant for the cleaning of seeds has recently been activated in Okęcie, Warsaw. It is the largest plant of its kind in Poland and in its present state can clean 11,000-19,000 tons of seed annually. It will be further expanded during 1951. The most modern machinery is used, including some operating on the electromagnetic principle.

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